



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

31 JUL 2019

The Honorable Mark Walker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walker:

Thank you for your July 16, 2019 letter regarding the unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) featured in recent media reports.

There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled training ranges and designated air space in recent years. The Department of the Navy (DON) takes these reports very seriously and continues to log sightings and fully investigate the accounts. The wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS) has increasingly made airspace de-confliction an issue for our aviators. Naval aircrews have been provided reporting guidance to determine the frequency and location of UAS operating in training areas. The guidance supports objective, data-driven analysis of incursions. The DON continues to dedicate resources to the tracking and investigation of reports that could affect the safety of our aircrews.

The DON is aligned with the Department of Defense (DoD) and interagency partners on this effort. The DON is leveraging established relationships with sister Services, other DoD offices, the U.S. Intelligence community and other U.S. government agencies that will help us to better understand these incursions into training areas. We will continue to ensure our efforts are closely coordinated with these organizations in this increasingly complex aviation environment.

The Department remains committed to providing Congress with updates on our efforts in the most proactive and transparent manner possible. We will continue consultations with the House Armed Services Committee, which continues to be our primary entry point in the House for all updates related to this topic. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts on this issue and your continued support to our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. B. Modly", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Thomas B. Modly